TOP SECRET

TICOM/I-21

15 (L)

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF

OBERST KETTLER, R.R.Dr. HUETTENHAIN,

Sdf.Dr. FRICKE (OKW/CHI) AND OBLT. SCHUBERT (OKH/CHI)

15th JUNE 1945.

Attached is the report of a preliminary interrogation of three members of OKW/CHI and one from OKH/CHI, carried out in the Great Hall of Schloss Gluecksburg, near Flensburg, on the 15th of June 1945.

Reports on the subsequent detailed interrogations of HUETTENHAIN, FRICKE and SCHUBERT are being issued separately in this series.

TICOM
1st July 1945

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SCHLOSS GLUECKSBURG - 1515/15th June 1945

Interrogation of: Oberst KETTLER, Reg.Rat. HUETTENHAIN, Sonderfuehrer FRICKE — OKW/Chi
Oberleut. SCHUBERT — OKH/Chi

Present:
Cdr. Dudley-Smith, R.N.
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Captain Royffe, I.C.
Lieut. Kirby, U.S. Army
Lieut. Morley, R.N.V.R.

Q: What arrangements were there for pooling resources of your organisation with the Forschungsamt?

Kettler: The Forschungsamt monitored Press traffic. It carried out cryptographic work but I do not know what it was. We tried to work together but the Forschungsamt refused for reasons unknown to me.

Huettenhain: I knew that Oden was concerned with the security of German cryptographic machines. He had been with Siemens. I knew of Paetzel, but I never discussed any cryptographic problems with him.

Kettler: We worked with the Auswaertiges Amt and this was satisfactory. There was no passing of material from the Services to OKW/Chi. Although it was suggested that the Army should give unworkable problems to OKW, nothing came of this.

Huettenhain: Some personnel transferred to the Forschungsamt from OKW/Chi. This was not well received in the latter organisation as they were regarded as people who had "deserted the ship".

Kettler: Until the 1st of November 1944, the Army had done its own cypher development but from that date everything was left to OKW/Chi.

Q: What was your charter for cryptanalysis?

Kettler: OKW/Chi was restricted to foreign diplomatic traffic including traffic from Attachés. Foreign Army traffic was dealt with by the Army. We were slightly concerned with the development of cyphers for German commercial firms, but no cryptographic work was done on foreign commercial systems.

Q: With which foreign countries did you have liaison?

Kettler: Italy, Finland, Hungary and Japan. No practical cryptographic work was done with the Japanese, a little was done with Italy and liaison with Finland and Hungary was fairly close.

Huettenhain: We exchanged the identification of book groups with the Italians.

Q: When was liaison with Finland started?

Huettenhain: I do not know. It began in the early years of my service and I had no opportunity of knowing the exact date. However, I began liaison with the Finns just after the Russo-Finnish war.

Schubert: Traffic and decyphered messages were exchanged with the Finns, both in the military and diplomatic fields. There was a Finnish Liaison Officer - Oberleut. Miekkoja - with the German Army's cryptographic organisation. There was also a German Liaison Officer in Finland during the last six months of Finland's participation in the main European War.

Q: When did Miekkoja come to Germany?

Kettler: He arrived at OKH at the end of 1942.

Q: What material did you obtain from the Finns?

Kettler: American, Russian and Swedish. The American diplomatic material was of particular importance.

Schubert: The military co-operation between OKH and the Finns was close, especially in the matter of NKVD material, in which there was great interest.

Q: Give us details of your liaison with Hungary.

Kettler: This liaison was of long standing and started in the early '20s soon after the last war.

Ruettenhain: The arrangement for liaison was peculiar. The Hungarians sent material for solution by OKW. The methods of solution of Italian, Rumanian and Polish traffic were sent back to Hungary, since these were the only countries of interest to them.

Q: Can you give us the names of personalities, in the Hungarian organisation?

Kettler: General von Petrikovics was head of the organisation. There was also a Colonel Haromy.

Q: What happened to the Hungarian organisation?

Kettler: Exchange of material stopped at the beginning of this year. I sent a Liaison Officer to the German frontier at Steinamanger, but he returned having only exchanged courtesies with the Hungarians. Nothing further was heard.

Q: Where was the organisation housed?

Kettler: In the Honved (Ministry of Defence). The organisation was immediately subordinate to the Chief of General Staff.

Q: Did you exchange Liaison Officers?

Kettler: No, but Wentland was sent at the entry of Hungary into the war. He was there for a few weeks only. The material was exchanged through the Hungarian Embassy and there were no visits from Hungarian officers. Petrikovics visited OKW/Chi before my appointment to the organisation but it was a visit of goodwill only, and I similarly made two goodwill visits to Hungary. The Hungarians had close liaison with the Finns and it was considered at the time that when Petrikovics came to Berlin he was on his way to Helsinki.

Q: Did the Japanese have a Liaison Officer at Budapest?

Kettler: Only the Japanese Military Attaché - Colonel (now General) Hayashi. He was head of the Japanese military cryptographic organisation and at the outbreak of war was on a

visit to Germany; he could not get back to Japan, and after travelling about a good deal he eventually became the Military Attaché at Budapest. Hayashi and Petrikovics knew one another.

Q: What was Hayashi doing in Berlin at the beginning of the war?

Kettler: He was attached to the staff of the Japanese Military Attaché in Berlin, but I do not know what the reasons for his visit were.

Q: Give us details of the liaison with the Japanese in Berlin.

Kettler: I knew the Japanese officers well and frequently dined with them. We gave the Japanese certain cryptographic data, but very little. We got nothing in exchange.

Q: What did you give them?

Kettler: Principally American data through Min.Rat. Fenner directly to Nishi and Sakurai.

Q: Did you give them any intelligence from decodes?

Kettler: No, and received none. So far as I remember traffic was sometimes handed over.

Q: When did liaison begin?

Huettenhain: Liaison began with the arrival of Hayashi and took a long time to develop. We began a little exchange of information in 1941. We did not tell the Japanese that we considered their systems bad.

Q: Give us details about your liaison with Italy.

Kettler: I do not know any details of liaison with the Italians since it had stopped when I was appointed at the end of 1943.

Huettenhain: I think it began during the Abyssinian war with a General Gamba.

Kettler: I had to intervene when a new bureau opened after the collapse of Italy under the Neo-Fascist regime. We refused to allow liaison and disbanded the Italian organisation, since we did not know what they would do with it.

Q: What work did you do on Italian cyphers?

Huettenhain: We worked on them with success. We told the Italians, but they at first refused to believe it. To prove it to them, we finally sent a cryptographer to Rome and he was locked in a room until he had done so!

Q: When was this, and what type of cypher was concerned?

Huettenhain: I do not remember the exact date, but it was about 1939. The system used was a primitive subtractor in great depth.

Q: What work did you do on the breaking of enemy agent's cyphers?

Kettler: French, Polish, Czech, Belgian and Dutch systems were worked on, and a department was detached to WNV/FuIII, which was also responsible for interception. The Polish traffic worked on was that passing between Warsaw and London. The duties of WNV/Fu were control of our own W/T traffic. WNV/FuIII dealt with agent's traffic.

Q: Did Oberinspektor Menzer co-operate with Dr. Huettenhain on double transposition and such problems?

Huettenhain: Menzer was at one time attached to me until the decision was taken to separate the German production organisation. Liaison, however, continued.

Q: Did Menzer deal with foreign agents' traffic?

Huettenhain: Oberleut. Vauck solved these, not Menzer. Dr. Vauck and his section used to be with OKW/Chi but were transferred to WNV/FuIII. They continued to be controlled by OKW/Chi and passed their results to them. Vauck was then posted to OKH. Most of WNV/FuIII went South and though part was supposed to come North, they never showed up.

Q: Where is Menzer?

Kettler: He is in the South.

Schubert: Russian Agents systems were tried by Vauck, who said they could not be solved. Later, he said they were digit substitutions and P/L encyphered with a One Time running key derived from a book. I worked on partisan and parachute traffic under front-line conditions. This traffic was a subtractor made from a book.

There was a double transposition system in the partisan traffic which was easily soluble up to June 1944. The transposition keys were derived from two key phrases modified daily. There was no limit to the length of messages and all messages on one day used the same key.

I was only superficially acquainted with Balkan agents traffic. This was done by the Balkan section not the Russian.